

**From:** Jeff Erwin  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/2/02 3:21pm  
**Subject:** MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

Concerning the ongoing Microsoft anti-trust negotiations, I am finding it harder and harder to watch Microsoft competitors use nine State District Attorneys seeking publicity and glory to get the courts to beat Microsoft to death. It is appalling that our system can be used this way, and I hope the system can react to the obvious and reshape the anti-trust laws so they can't be used as a competitive weapon in the future.

The latest 'negotiations' by the nine objecting States shows clearly that they have no interest in the case itself, they are only interested in appeasing the competition located in their states and continuing to keep themselves in the public spotlight. The fact that they are now demanding that the Microsoft Office suite of applications be ported to non-Windows operating systems shows that they have little understanding of the markets, and no concern for anti-trust laws. The application side of Microsoft's business has never been an issue in this case, including it now as a part of the remedies shows their true colors. Their demand that Microsoft offer a stripped-down version of Windows shows that the nine States have no understanding of the market, the developer issues and the consumer. If there are several different versions of the same Windows release out in the market, the increased burden on companies supplying software to the Windows market is huge. The test issues become much larger, the development tradeoffs impact the levels of functionality the consumer ultimately gets, and all of this will result in higher product costs to the consumer to pay for the additional development and testing needed to make sure an application works on all the different stripped versions.

Please stop this lunacy. Make decisions based on the consumer, not the competition. Do not let the court system be used and abused in this way. Do not let this country's greatest business success story be torn apart by the greedy needs of a few. While Microsoft has been found guilty of monopolistic behavior, it does not deserve this treatment.

Jeff Erwin

